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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC #4890-80
10 July 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
Acting Chairman, National Intelligence Council *HP*

FROM :
Acting National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT : NIC Monthly Warning Meeting

1. In an effort to take advantage of the collective expertise of the NIOs, the chairman convenes the National Intelligence Council once a month as a warning committee. These sessions are designed to complement the regular NIO monthly warning meetings with a view to strengthening the ability of the NIC collectively and the NIOs individually to conduct disciplined and systematic examinations of trends and developments which may have potential warning significance.

2. The following are the highlights of our NIC warning meeting of 10 July:

a. Syria: Assad is increasingly vulnerable to assassination or removal by coup. Should he depart the scene, a successor regime is likely to be unstable, unpredictable, and probably more radical. Removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon would markedly fuel the already crisis situation there. A more unstable Syria would also introduce added instabilities into its relationships with Israel, the Arab world, and the USSR. An Alert Memorandum on this subject is being prepared today.

b. Vietnam/Kampuchea/Thailand/China: The Thai may welcome recent incursions as an opportunity to demonstrate to the US their need for assistance. The rainy season is upon us, and we probably will not see a major offensive, but minor incidents will continue. China is unlikely in

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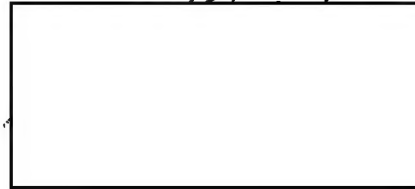
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these circumstances to undertake the "second lesson" soon, although it will continue to conduct a psychological war against the Vietnamese.

c. Liberia: The country is approaching economic collapse. While not a clearly defined warning situation, an IIM is in train to analyze this situation.

d. Ogaden: The situation has quieted down somewhat. The ball is now in the Somali court. We lack good information on the status of US/Somali negotiations.



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*This memorandum reflects the views of the NIO/W. Differences of opinion within the NIC are reflected when they occur.

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